



## Medicare Prescription Drug Discount Cards

### Fast Facts

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CONSUMER INFORMATION SHEET

#### Find the Best Deal Before Signing Up for a Discount Card

- The cards are for Medicare patients that do **not** have outpatient prescription drug coverage under Medicaid.
- You can keep previous discount programs or insurance coverage **and** apply for a Medicare discount card.
- You can only have one *Medicare* discount card at a time. The card can cost up to \$30 a year.
- Private businesses and organizations offer the discount cards, so the discounts can vary with each card.
- The cards can be restricted to just one pharmacy and only certain drugs.
- There is no deadline to apply for the card.

This is a temporary program that ends when the next phase starts January 1, 2006. The people who may benefit the most from the card are those who qualify for an additional \$600 credit. Annual incomes must be no more than \$12,569 for a single person or \$16,862 for couples.

**Watch Out for Phony Cards.** Look for the Medicare seal on the card and check the Medicare list of approved providers. Beware of cards that are solicited door-to-door or by phone. Be suspicious of anyone asking for your bank, Social Security or credit card numbers.

#### Additional Ways to Save On Prescription Drugs

- Ask your pharmacist for generic drugs or substitutes
- Check for individual store discount programs
- Shop around - prices vary from store to store
- Ask your doctor if manufacturer samples or trial supplies are available.
- Compare prices at safe internet pharmacies like those verified by the Pharmacy Board Association (NABP) <http://www.nabp.net/>



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### Where to Get More Information

Before calling, or searching the Internet, gather up your prescriptions and get the names and dosage information off the bottles.

Medicare Web site: ([www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov))

- <http://www.medicare.gov/AssistancePrograms/home.asp>

Call Medicare:

- Toll-free 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227 or TTY 877-486-2408)